

# Cannon Beach will seek \$102,000 for emergency materials, guides

## Grant could fund emergency equipment

By Nancy McCarthy  
Cannon Beach Gazette

If Cannon Beach receives the \$102,000 state homeland security grant the city is applying for, communication during emergencies may be improved.

The grant application will be part of an overall grant being sought by Clatsop County.

During a Cannon Beach City Council meeting Jan. 5, the council unanimously approved City Manager Brant Kucera's request to apply for the funds.

About \$30,000 would go toward developing three different field operating guides for the city staff; volunteers working with the emergency responders, including ham radio groups and community emergency response teams; and local community organizations as well as businesses.

The guides would "allow someone to understand how to run a command center better or allocate resources," Kucera said. "Anyone could pick up a guide and understand their role in this event."

The remaining \$72,000 of the grant would provide

## 'Anyone could pick up a guide and understand their role in this event.'

City Manager Brant Kucera,  
on emergency field guides

equipment, including a generator for the emergency command center, which would be based at the fire station or the public works building; handheld radio sets for response staff; and a military-style tent to act as a temporary command center.

In other business, the council:

- Removed from the agenda a planned public hearing on a proposal by Jeffery Nicholson for a four-unit planned development at 532 N. Laurel St. The hearing was postponed because the city Planning Commission has not completed its hearing on the matter and will take it up again at 6 p.m. Jan. 28.

- Approved revised leases for the Cannon Beach Library and the Tolovana Arts Colony.

Although Kucera proposed that the library's original 99-year-lease on city property, due to end in 2070, be changed to end in 2026, library board members protested.

Library Treasurer Phyllis Bernst said a lease with only 10 more years left would prevent library board members from

making long-range plans, would reduce the library's sense of security in its location and could jeopardize a public/private partnership between the city and the library that has been working well.

The council agreed to a compromise that would continue the 99-year lease but would require the library board to comply with updated insurance requirements. The board also would be required to allow an evaluation of the lease every five years.

The Tolovana Arts Colony's lease with the city ends in 2020. Its lease also was revised to reflect new state requirements to increase insurance coverage.

- Heard comments about the council's ongoing consideration about whether marijuana dispensaries will be allowed in Cannon Beach.

Local resident Marlene Laws said she had collected 156 signatures of those who don't want a marijuana shop in town. David Robinson, pastor of Cannon Beach Community Church, told the council that the commercial sale of

marijuana would discourage young families from moving to town and would adversely impact tourism. Business owners would have to worry about employees using marijuana, and there could be more impaired drivers, Robinson said.

However, Jan Siebert-Wahrmund said the public has been "misled" about marijuana and that the drug suffers a double standard when compared to alcohol.

"Moderation is the key," said Siebert-Wahrmund, who added that it still would not be legal for children to use marijuana. She noted that 63 percent of the community's voters approved marijuana's legalization.

"I don't feel that having a shop in town would stop tourists from coming here," Siebert-Wahrmund said.

- Heard praise of the city's public works and planning departments from Bruce Francis, manager of the Breakers Point condominiums. When enormous swells on the Ecola estuary caused deep undercutting of the bank adjacent to one of the condominium buildings, Francis said the city staff responded within 24 hours to shore up the building and also prevent a 2-inch gas main from bursting.

"We are very indebted to the prompt action by the city staff," Francis said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Filmmaker Shane Anderson explores risks to our region's forests.

# Film outlines risks of clearcut logging

By Andrew R. Tonry  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Standing on the beach, looking east, you can see them — the expanding swaths of clearcuts carved out of the hills. Every few months it seems another is shaved away, almost like a haircut. What's tougher to see — at least with the naked eye — is how those clearcuts have the potential to disturb both the water we drink and the air we breathe.

Such potential for devastation is the subject of "Behind the Emerald Curtain," a documentary film shown at the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce Jan. 6. The film is produced by the Portland-based nonprofit advocacy group Pacific Rivers along with North Fork Studios, and directed by Shane Anderson.

Much of the crisply shot and foreboding half-hour film is set less than 30 miles south of Cannon Beach, in Wheeler and Rockaway Beach. In those nearby locales, the film posits, both drinking water and oxygen have been compromised by destructive logging practices.

According to the film, natural root systems act as a filter for Rockaway's Jetty Creek watershed, and that after such forests were clearcut the amount of silt in the water increased dramatically. Filtering out that silt is a complex and costly process, which added unnecessary chemicals to

public drinking water. Improvements to Rockaway Beach's water processing facilities, the film asserts, cost some \$1.6 million.

"Behind the Emerald Curtain" also explores chemical spraying after forests have been logged.

Most disturbing is the testimony of one Wheeler resident. She tells of staggering to a local clinic after a spraying near her home. Upon arrival she finds the scent of the same chemicals to have permeated the clinic, and a patient suffers a subsequent seizure.

In a film full of disturbing images, another follows. As the camera zooms out from the clinic, a freshly logged hill looms directly behind it.

According to filmmakers, the only way Wheeler residents can be made abreast of nearby spraying schedules is to pay \$25 for the information.

"You have to pay to find out if you're being poisoned," says a flabbergasted interviewee.

But "Behind the Emerald Curtain" doesn't take issue with particular perpetrators so much as it does with Oregon law. Under the auspices of the Oregon Forest Practices Act, it alleges, everything these private landowners — and the companies who log it — are doing is perfectly legal.

As such, the film is as much a call to action as it is an expose.

# Planning commission seeks to fill vacancy

Clatsop County invites applications for an open seat on its Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission is the county's committee for citizen involvement on development and land use issues, such as zoning, natural resources, transportation, natural hazards, economic development, housing, farm and forest lands and coastal zones. The commission makes land use decisions on variances, conditional uses

and subdivisions. It also makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on amendments to the comprehensive plan and its implementing ordinances. The Planning Commission regularly meets the second Tuesday of each month, in Astoria, beginning at 10 a.m.

The open position is for a vacant term ending June 2018. For additional information about the commis-

sion's meetings or responsibilities, contact Jennifer Bunch, Senior Planner, at 503-325-8611 or jrbunch@co.clatsop.or.us.

Clatsop County strives to have a Planning Commission that represents all geographical areas of the county, including incorporated cities. The commission currently does not have representatives from the following planning areas: Elsie-Jewell, Seaside Rural, and Lewis &

Clark/Olney-Wallooskee; however, all interested parties are encouraged to apply.

The Board of Commissioners will consider the appointments at one of its upcoming regular meetings. Application forms are available from the County Manager's office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria, OR, or online at www.co.clatsop.or.us. The deadline to apply is Feb. 29 at 5 p.m.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Tuesday, Jan. 19**  
Cannon Beach Public Works,  
9 a.m., City Hall 163 E. Gower St.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m.,  
1801 S. Franklin St.

**Thursday, Jan. 21**  
Cannon Beach Design Review  
Board, 6 p.m., City Hall 163 E.  
Gower St.

**Thursday, Jan. 28**  
Cannon Beach Planning Commission,  
6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E.  
Gower St.

**Friday, Jan. 29**  
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness  
Committee, 10 a.m.,  
City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Monday, Feb. 8**  
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection  
District Board of Directors

**Meeting**, 6 p.m., 188 W. 2nd St.

**Tuesday, Feb. 16**  
Cannon Beach Public Works,  
9 a.m., City Hall 163 E. Gower St.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m.,  
1801 S. Franklin St.

**Thursday, Feb. 18**  
Cannon Beach Design Review  
Board, City Hall, 6 p.m. 163 E.  
Gower St.

**Thursday, Feb. 25**  
Cannon Beach Planning Commission,  
6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E.  
Gower St.

**Friday, Feb. 26**  
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness  
Committee, 10 a.m.,  
City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Tuesday, March 15**  
Cannon Beach Public Works,

9 a.m., City Hall 163 E. Gower St.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m.,  
1801 S. Franklin St.

**Thursday, March 17**  
Cannon Beach Design Review  
Board, City Hall, 6 p.m. 163 E.  
Gower St.

**Friday, March 23**  
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness  
Committee, 10 a.m.,  
City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Thursday, March 24**  
Cannon Beach Planning Commission,  
6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E.

Gower St.

**Tuesday, April 19**  
Cannon Beach Public Works,  
9 a.m., City Hall 163 E. Gower St.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m.,  
1801 S. Franklin St.

**Thursday, April 21**  
Cannon Beach Design Review  
Board, City Hall, 6 p.m. 163 E.  
Gower St.

**Cannon Beach Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E.  
Gower St.

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